

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 AF-04 EUR-08 PM-03

INR-05 CIAE-00 L-01 PRS-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 /045 W

----- 113085

O R 152250Z SEP 75

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2035

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4268

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, SF

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICA AT 30TH UNGA - CONVERSATION WITH
AMB. THORN

1. AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN, ACCOMPANIED BY COUNSELOR GARMENT
AND MISOFF CALLED ON GA PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE THORN
15 SEPTEMBER.

2. AFTER AN EXCHANGE OF PLEASANTRIES WE ASKED HOW THORN
ENVISIONED HANDLING QUESTION OF SOUTH AFRICA. HE SAID
HE INTENDED TO RULE OUT OF ORDER ANY EFFORT TO UNSEAT
SOUTH AFRICA BASED ON THE 1974 BOUTEFLIKA RULING. IF
THERE IS A CHALLENGE TO SOUTH AFRICAN PARTICIPATION, HE
WILL INSIST THAT PROPER PROCEDURES BE FOLLOWED; HE
CONSIDERS REFERENCE OF THE MATTER TO THE CREDENTIALS
COMMITTEE TO BE IN ORDER. HE ASSURED US THAT IF THE
CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE AGAIN RECOMMENDS THAT THE SOUTH
AFRICAN CREDENTIALS BE REJECTED AND THE PLENARY CONFIRMS,
HE WILL NEVERTHELESS RULE AS WE WOULD EXPECT, I.E. IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE CHARTER. HE SAID HE EXPECTS THAT HIS
RULING WILL BE OVERTURNED BY THE ASSEMBLY.

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3. THORN SAID HE HAD HEARD AT LUNCH THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAD NOT DECIDED CONCLUSIVELY TO ATTEND THE SESSION BUT THAT CURRENT SOUTH AFRICAN THINKING IS IN ANY EVENT THAT THEY WOULD NOT TAKE A SEAT BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF THE GENERAL DEBATE SEPTEMBER 22.

4. THORN SAID THE ONE THING HE DOES NOT WANT TO HAVE HAPPEN WOULD BE FOR THE SOUTH AFRICANS TO WALK INTO THE ASSEMBLY THE MINUTE HE, THORN, ASSUMES THE PRESIDENCY ON SEPTEMBER 16. THIS WOULD CONVEY THE IMPRESSION THAT HE, AS A EUROPEAN, WAS EXPECTED TO SUPPORT THEM. HE ASKED AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN TO CONVEY THIS MESSAGE TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATION AND AMB. MOYNIHAN AGREED TO DO SO.

5. MOYNIHAN CALLED BOTHA IN WASHINGTON TO SAY WE WERE JUST CHECKING, HAVING HEARD THAT THEY DID NOT PLAN TO MAKE AN APPEARANCE UNTIL NEXT MONDAY. BOTHA SAID THAT HAD BEEN THEIR PLAN, BUT IT HAD CHANGED. HE ASKED TO TALK WITH ME "PERSONALLY". IT WAS AGREED HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH HERE IN NEW YORK FIRST THING IN THE MORNING.
MOYNIHAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPULSION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchantr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975USUNN04268
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750319-0988
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750951/aaaabszs.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchantr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <16 OCT 2003 by buchantr>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOUTH AFRICA AT 30TH UNGA - CONVERSATION WITH AMB. THORN
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, SF, UNGA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006